



Bull riders gather on Okinawa to show their skill and courage at this extreme sport. For more stories and photos see pages 10-11.

April 6, 2001

Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan

www.okinawa.usmc.mil

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Camp Courtney's enlisted club reopens for spring

After six months and \$800,000 in renovations, the Bayview Enlisted Club is scheduled to reopen April 7. The renovations were made in an effort to create a social environment for families and single Marines.

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Leak closes gas station

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAMP FOSTER — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service gas station here closed its pumps after tests March 22-23 found gasoline leaking from fuel lines between an underground tank and the pumps.

The pumps were closed to prevent further leaks. No date has been set for the station to reopen.

Maintenance workers discovered the leak during service to a base sewage line. Initial test results on a nearby spring indicated sewage contaminants were present in the water. Chemicals indicating the presence of gasoline were also identified and comprehensive tests are ongoing to determine if any other pollutants may be present.

Drinking water on base and in military housing is not affected. The affected spring is not a source of potable water for military bases.

Additional tests on soil and water in the area are being conducted to determine



LCPL KENNETH L. HINSON

Camp Foster's gas station remains closed indefinitely after an underground fuel leak was discovered.

the extent of possible contamination.

The water from the spring has been contained on base and purified to prevent untreated water from flowing into the ocean.

Samples of the spring water are being tested regularly to monitor the decrease-

ing concentration levels of gasoline.

AAFES gasoline service is available at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma or Kadena Air Base. Diesel fuel availability and repair service at the Camp Foster gas station are not affected by the gasoline pump closure.

School registration begins for all classes this spring

DOUG KELSEY

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DODDS OKINAWA

The Department of Defense Dependent Schools, Okinawa, will host a one-stop school and bus re-registration from April 9-13.

This one-week initiative will enable parents to go to one location to register all of their students regardless of what school they attend. For example, if a family has children attending an elementary school, a middle school and a high school, they can complete all school re-registration at one location at one time. Free and reduced lunch applications will also be processed.

There will be two processing locations available on Okinawa. Parents of children attending school at Amelia Earhart, Bob Hope Primary School, Kadena Elementary School, Kadena High School, Kadena Middle School and Stearley Heights Elementary School will register at the Kadena High School cafeteria. Parents of children attending school at Bechtel, E.C. Killin, Kinser, and Zukeran Elementary School Kubasaki High School, and Lester Middle School will register at the Lester Middle School cafeteria.

Parents with children only at Bechtel

Elementary School may register at the Bechtel Elementary School during the same week. Parents with children at Kinser Elementary School may register at Kinser Elementary School during the week of April 16.

The week of April 9 is the only week parents can register their children at one location and complete all the requirements for school bus registration.

Parents who do not reregister during the week of April 9 will be required to go to two or more locations on island to complete the re-registration process. For example, if you have children attending school at an elementary, middle and high school, you will have to go to four separate locations. You will need to visit each of the three schools as well as the Student Transportation Office.

Re-registration Dates and Times:

April 9 from 1200 - 1530

April 10-12 from 0800 - 1530

April 13 from 0800 - 1300

To apply for free or reduced lunch, please bring a current LES. Students must be present to have a photo taken for a bus pass. The Student Transportation Office at Camp Foster will not be open for re-registration during spring recess.

Required documents for all students

- Civilians – Verification of employment/SF-50
- Military – Extension of orders if expiring after Sept. 1, 2001
- Student's immunization records
- Emergency contact information
- LES (For free and reduced – lunch applicants only)

Required documents – New kindergarten only

- Birth certificate
- Social security number
- Immunization Form 122.1

To enable us to serve you better, try to avoid the peak times 8-9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our goal is to prevent anyone from having to take more than 15 minutes per child.

Report traffic violations at 645-7441/7442

Renovated Bayview Enlisted Club ready for reopening

PFC DAMIAN J. MCGEE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — The Bayview Enlisted Club will reopen April 7 after being closed for six months while it received more than \$800,000 in renovations.

The remodeled Bayview is now an establishment, instead of simply a club, said Eddie Marczewski, Bayview's Manager.

"It was almost like the club was just here because it had to be here," Marczewski said. "Now, however, we're opening an establishment for Marines to come and be comfortable in and proud of."



Marczewski

The renovation is the Bayview's first since it opened in 1965.

"The club was to the point where it was barely making ends meet," Marczewski said.

"This was a place that only sold tacos and hamburgers. We honestly didn't have anything to offer anyone except a place to have a drink."

A nicer social environment for both families and single Marines is the goal of renovation efforts which include new interior design, furniture, carpeting, dance floor, lighting and sound system.

"I want this to be the type of place all ranks feel comfortable coming to," Marczewski said. "I think Marines should be able to bring their families in here and enjoy a nice affordable meal. I also want the ranks to be able to come together when we do things like comedy shows or live bands."

In addition to providing a nicer atmosphere within the Bayview, Marczewski wants to make life a little easier for Marines and residents of Courtney.

"We're going to do little things like leaving our cash cage open all day and evening," Marczewski said. "It seems like something minor, but it will mean a lot to people who will now have the opportunity to walk in here and pay bills, cash checks and buy yen."

Whether it's a family lunch on Saturday or a Marine looking for a place to spend a Friday night, the Bayview will afford them that opportunity, according to Marczewski.

"For the younger Marines, it's kind of like we have a lot of new toys for them to play with," he said. "With a hi-tech lighting system and music that goes through your body. It's definitely a place for young Marines to spend their evenings out."

The dance floor is equipped with a 72-light system.

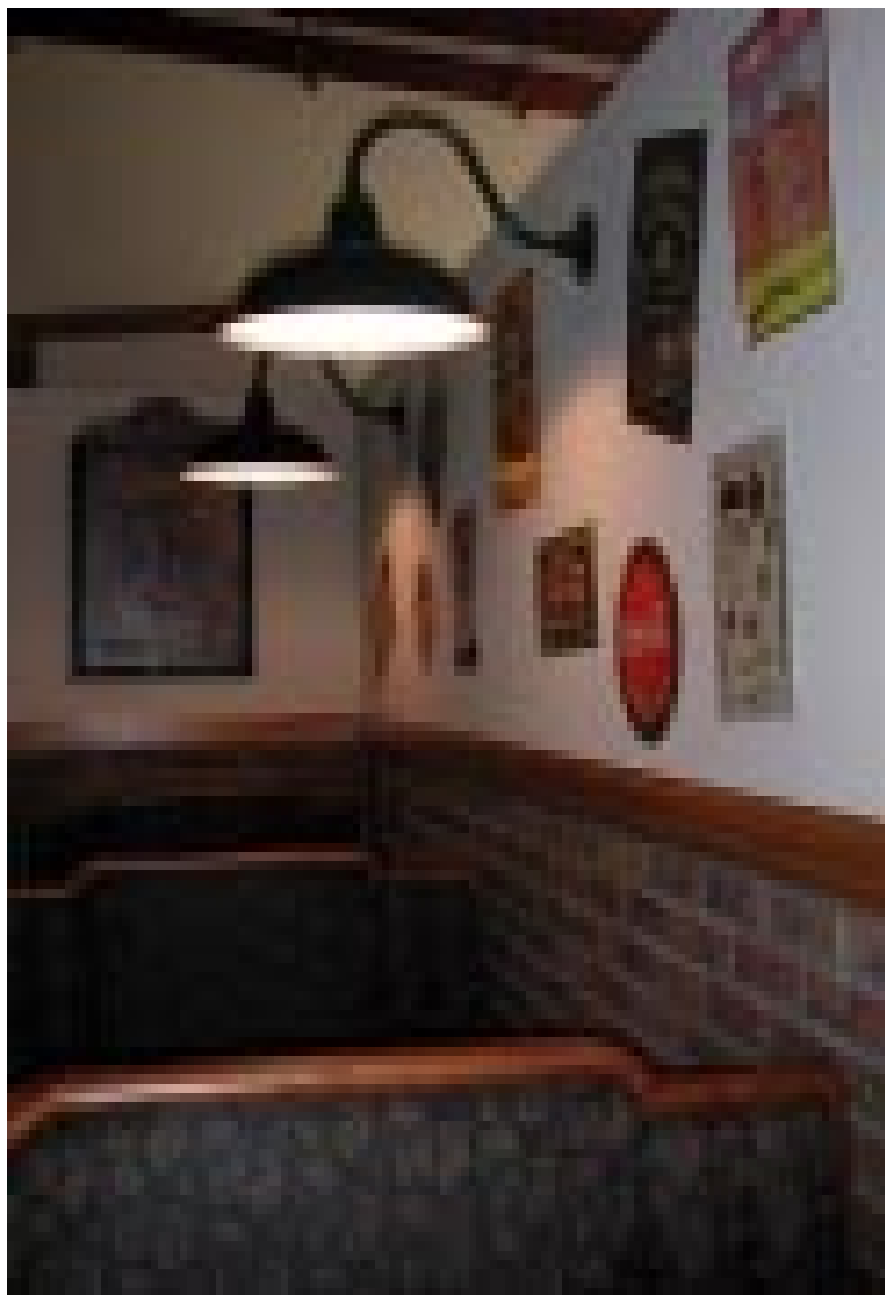
A new sound system including speakers suspended from the ceiling and mounted in the walls has been installed around the dance floor.

The game room will feature 25 slot machines, pool tables and dartboards.

The club will offer venues for everyone including live bands, comedy shows, country night, Tex-Mex (salsa) night, R&B and variety Fridays, live karaoke Mondays and the newly added ladies night.

The Bayview's menu has also been renovated and now includes homemade pot roast, Reuben sandwiches and crab legs.

"For the families we have great food six days a week and the dining room is open to everyone,"



PFC DAMIAN J. MCGEE

The Bayview Enlisted Club's improved dining facilities have a completely new menu which includes everything from homemade pot roast to reuben sandwiches.

Marczewski said. "A lot of families want to be able to go to a place, sit down and enjoy a nice meal. We're going to give them a place to do that."

"I'm not saying this is necessarily the greatest place in the world,"

Marczewski said. "What I am saying is that we have something here for Marines and their families to enjoy, a place where everyone from a single Marine to a dating couple to a family with children can feel comfortable visiting."

Internet misuse comes under the gun

Information Systems Branch gets tough on abuse of computer privileges

CPL CHAD SWAIM
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER—Service members and civilians using government computers could be putting their career at risk by stopping at the wrong website.

The Information System Branch, Marine Corps Base, is cracking down on misuse and abuse of government computing privileges.

While testing a new kind of software in October, ISB discovered a large percentage of Internet traffic on MCB servers violated the appropriate use policy outlined in Marine Administrative Message 162/00, according to Sgt Jefferson J. Mass-Rodriguez, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Network Security, ISB. The software can be fine tuned to limit users access to certain sites and ISB hopes to purchase this type of software to monitor the network and halt offenders.

"When they do that, they know they're doing something wrong," Sgt Mass-Rodriguez said. "They don't care and that's why they get caught."

The ISB Marines have been working to ensure that

computer users do not visit sites that contain pornography, adult entertainment, shareware programs and adult personal ads.

Sites dealing with adult personal ads are problematic due to the explicit nature of the photos and stories, Sgt Mass-Rodriguez said.

Personal gain is also considered misuse. Any action taken on a government computer to gain or lose money is considered misuse.

"Marines are using it for everything from pornography and entertainment, to car sales and personal profit," Sgt Mass-Rodriguez said.

Misuse can also affect the performance of the local Internet. Everytime someone opens an extra window on their computer, it opens another browser. The more browsers that are open on a network, the slower Internet traffic will be.

"This type of use affects one third of the Internet traffic on MCB during business hours," said CWO2 Timothy D. Wheeler, Officer in Charge, Okinawa Communications Control Center, ISB. The misuse is also coming from a very broad spectrum of the ranks, with users ranging from privates all the way to lieutenant colonels.

Official use can vary depending on the user's billet and the users section head or OIC determines what that is.



"We let Marines use the Internet now because it boosts morale," Sgt Mass-Rodriguez said. "For some, that's the only connectivity they have to mom, dad, grandma, girlfriends, wives, husbands or whatever the case may be."

Anyone who suspects misuse in their office should contact ISB immediately at 645-3700 or call 117 and ask for the OCC.

Marines caught misusing government computers can be charged with violating Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, according to Sgt Mass-Rodriguez.

MarAdmin 162/00 can be viewed at www.usmc.mil/maradmins/maradmin2000.nsf.

Course prepares military for humanitarian missions

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY — U.S. service members from around the island and infantryman from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force received Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training here March 26-30.

The CHART Course, taught in a classroom setting by representatives from the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, is designed to provide basic information about complex emergencies in an international arena, according to PO1 Albino M. Decastro, Preventive Medicine Technician, G-4 Health Service Support, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



PO1 Decastro

"Having this kind of training helps service members know what role they play when a humanitarian response happens," PO1 Decastro said. "It's not a matter of if we'll have another complex emergency, it's when we'll have another one to respond to. It could be anything from hunger to chaos and we need to know how to respond."

The COE, established in 1994, is operated as a partnership of the U.S. Pacific Command, the Pacific Regional Medical Command, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Hawaii and is the only World Health Organization designated Collaborating Center for Humanitarian Civil-Military Cooperation, according to Jeffrey B. Lewis, Associate Staff Member, Education and Training Program, COE.

"At the center, we do a great deal of research and development of curriculum for courses like this," said Lewis, who has experience in humanitarian assistance efforts in Somalia, Liberia, Rwanda, Uganda, and southern China.

He said the speakers often relate their personal experiences dealing with humanitarian crises when teaching military members what their role should be.

As the speakers at the CHART Course relay their experiences, they also create awareness among the attendees of what civilian humanitarian relief organizations are out there and what they are capable



SSGT D. W. MOBLEY

Marines from Regimental Combat Team-7 (RCT-7) set up a perimeter and supervised an orderly distribution of grain to Somali nationals at a watering hole 80KM northeast of Baidoa Nov. 30, 1992. The Marines helped the nongovernmental organization Irish Concern distribute 30 metric tons of grain.

of doing, according to Ulf G. Jershed, Training Advisor, COE.

"It's important for the military to know what other organizations are on the ground with them," said Jershed, who is a former Swedish army officer with United Nations experience. "We let them know what these organizations do and how they can help them do their jobs."

As the military becomes familiar with what the civilian organizations are capable of and how they can help them do their jobs, it narrows the scope of the military's mission. The military mission becomes one where it is providing security for these relief organizations instead of trying to do everything themselves, according to Lewis.

"Knowing this helps to avoid what we call 'mission creep' or ever-expanding responsibilities which can keep forces deployed for a longer period of time," Lewis said. "It allows us to focus on creating a secure environment for these organizations to work, train local authorities to maintain this environment and then return home once they have the situation in hand."

The CHART Course also focuses other issues that can arise as the military provides security... sover-

eignty and international humanitarian law, water/sanitation, mental health and containing communicable diseases, according to PO1 Decastro.

"As we go in to these places, we take lawyers with us to interpret law, medical personnel to deal with disease and counselors to help deal with mental issues," PO1 Decastro said. "When you have service members come into where there have been mass casualties, you have to be prepared to deal with the long and short-term psychological or emotional affects on personnel."

The training has helped students, who come from many different military career fields, to understand their roles in military operations other than war, according to Capt Michael M. Farrell, Communications Officer, 12th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division.

"The information has been interesting and insightful in seeing how the Marine Corps' mission fits into humanitarian situations," Capt Farrell said. "It has helped me understand what the Marine Corps has been doing while participating in MOOTW. With the way things are in the world today, I think III MEF will be more involved in humanitarian efforts and this training will be useful."

Okinawa government seeks volunteers for English tutor program

Military members teach English, American culture to local elementary schools

LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Volunteer English tutors are being sought to support the English-speaking Assistant Program next year in Okinawa elementary schools. Okinawa government officials met with U.S. military leaders here March 15 and asked them for more tutors.

Officials from the Okinawa Prefecture Government, Prefecture Education Agency and Board of Education discussed the increase with representatives from U.S. Armed Forces who agreed to add six additional schools to the program. The program will support 13 schools.

"This meeting clearly is an indicator of its (the program's) success," said Col David P. Rann, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, Marine Corp Base.

Last year's program included approximately 150 volunteers, mostly active-duty military and family members, who visited local elementary schools to teach young students conversational English and American culture. Next year, the military will do its best to continue giving everything it can to the local community, Col Rann said.

"Americans have been coming to Okinawa for many years," said Lawrence J. Mire, Political Military Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate,

Okinawa. "We've lived here, died here, married here, had children here... it is only natural for us, as our second home, to want to give back to the community."

"This program is a good opportunity where you can reach out to the people," said Kaori Martinez, Community Relations Officer, MCB. It is a two-way street where you teach them and you'll learn from them. Most of all, it's rewarding."

Some involved with the program said they were concerned the request to double the program could be asking too much too fast from its military neighbors.

"We have only one school for Camp Kinser and that is all we can

handle," said Ichino Kuba, Community Relations Specialist, Camp Services, Camp Kinser. "If they ask us to do more, volunteers will be too hard to find and we are afraid it will cause the program to phase out."

Transportation for Marine volunteers, most who do not have cars, and a set curriculum for all schools were some of the other issues discussed.

The Okinawa and U.S. officials both agreed that the program is well worth the time and effort to keep a strong bond between the U.S. military and Okinawans.

"We will continue to reach out as long as we are neighbors," Col Rann said.

To volunteer as an English tutor contact your camp Community Relations Specialist or call Kaori Martinez at 645-4220. Volunteer orientations are scheduled to begin April 12.

"We will continue to reach out as long as we are neighbors."

- Col David P. Rann



CPL CHAD SWAIM

Horsing around

Justin Covington, 2, enjoys a ride on a slide April 2 in a new playground constructed at Puckett Park on Camp Kinser. The new park offers a safe and fun environment for children of all ages on Kinser. The park was dedicated in memory of the former Camp Commander, Col Paul R. Puckett, in a ceremony March 30.

Tax center adds state service

SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — The Legal Service Support Section Tax Center here is still completing federal tax returns and now offers state tax return services as the April 16 tax deadline to file approaches.

The Tax Center has completed and electronically filed more than 8,000 federal tax returns for service members, their families, retired military and Department of Defense civilians according to SSgt James B. Baughman, Director, LSSS Tax Center.

"Though service members stationed overseas have a two month extension to complete their federal taxes, it is still important to meet the April 16 deadline," SSgt Baughman said. "The extension really only benefits those who owe nothing or are getting a refund. If you owe money to the government and wait those two months to file, you will be paying penalties as well."

As the deadline approaches, the center continues to take walk-in customers as well as appointments for federal returns, SSgt Baughman said.

"The average waiting time for our walk-in customers has been 10-15 minutes," SSgt Baughman said. "For those with appointments, there has been little or no wait at all. The personnel here are doing a very good job at accommodating our customers."

In addition to the free federal tax return preparation services, the center now also offers state tax return capabilities, according to SSgt. Baughman.

"We have the ability to assist our customers with state taxes and have the forms for all states which require it," SSgt Baughman said. "We can't



electronically file the state tax returns like we can the federal, but we will help prepare the returns and print them off so customers can mail them on their own."

With the April 16 deadline just a little over a week away, SSgt Baughman urges service members who expect to owe money not to wait until the last minute to file.

"If you think you are going to owe the government money and are waiting until the last day to file, there is no need to wait," SSgt Baughman said. "Just because we complete the return for someone who owes money doesn't mean it has to be sent that day. Come in early, have us complete the return and then you can wait to mail it out on April 16."

Whether filing state or federal returns, the tax center services are free and the center's personnel will be happy to help, according to SSgt Baughman.

"We'll do everything we can to answer all your questions and concerns," SSgt Baughman said. "We're here to make filing as easy as possible."

For more information on the LSSS Tax Center or to set up an appointment, call 645-1TAX or contact your unit's representative.

Coaching coaches

MCCS brings back NYSCA certification requirement

CPL CHAD SWAIM
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports is reinstating the requirement for coaches of youth teams to be certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association during the upcoming soccer season.

"It was a requirement when Moral, Welfare and Recreation was around, but during the change-over to MCCS it got lost in the shuffle," said Jason Kozerski, Marine Corps Community Services Youth Sports Manager.

The NYSCA certification provides training, support and continuing education to volunteers that coach out-of-school youth sports teams.

This training helps volunteers understand the psychology of coaching children. It gives volunteers the skills to help children have fun, improve athletic ability and demonstrates how to strengthen relationships with parents, officials and children, according to the National Alliance for Youth Sports website.

Volunteers who want to attend the training can make an appointment with Kozerski on the phone.

"It doesn't have to be a huge class," Kozerski said. "It can be one on one."

The class is free, but there is a \$20 registration fee that the NYSCA charges for certification.

"I think the more people that see what it actually entails to be a coach the less trouble our coaches will have to go through while they are coaching," Kozerski said.

The training takes four to six hours. The length varies depending upon the ages of children being coached.

"I would also like to recommend that assistant coaches have this certification as well," Kozerski said. "We would like the head coaches to bring their assistants with them."

Since 1981, 1.3 million people have been certified through the NYSCA. The certification is valid worldwide and at 2,500 organizations in all 50 states and military bases.

Call 645-3533 to schedule a training appointment, or find out more information about NYSCA at www.nays.org.



CPL CHAD SWAIM

David P. Ingold (center), Youth Soccer Coach, gets a feel for his new players for the 2001 season. Coaches like Ingold are now required to be certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association after Marine Corps Community Services, Okinawa, recently reinstated the program.



NJP REPORT

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for March 26-31.

• Underage drinking

A sergeant with 3d Transportation Support Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of underage drinking. Punishment: reduction to E-4, forfeiture of \$750 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

• Drunk and disorderly

A sergeant with 2d Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: reduction to E-4, forfeiture of \$750 per month for two months and restriction for 60 days.

A private first class with Headquarters Battalion, 3d MarDiv, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of the above offense. Punishment: forfeiture of \$584 per month for one month and restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Drinking on restriction, having hard liquor in the barracks and drunk and disorderly conduct

A private first class with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron-152, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of the above offenses. Punishment: reduction to E-1.

• Underage drinking, drinking on liberty risk, having hard liquor in the barracks and drunk and disorderly conduct

Two privates first class with VMGR-152, 1st MAW, were found guilty at a squadron-level NJP of the above offenses. Punishment: reduction to E-1.



COURTS MARTIAL

• A lance corporal assigned to Battalion Landing Team 1/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, was sentenced to four months confinement, forfeiture of \$670 per month for four months, reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge, at a special court-martial on one specification of Article 81, conspiracy to steal, Article 107, false official statement, and Article 121, larceny.

• A private assigned to BLT 1/5, 31st MEU, was sentenced to reduction to E-1, three months confinement, forfeiture of \$670 per month for three months and a bad conduct discharge at a special court-martial on one specification of Article 86, unauthorized absence for 46 days and failure to go to appointed place of duty, and Article 91, disobeying a staff sergeant.

CHAPELS

The following lists the times for religious services available at the specified camps or bases. Contact the local chapel to verify religious services start times.

Camp McTureous Chapel (622-9350)

Roman Catholic

Vigil Mass (Saturday); 5:00

Protestant

Protestant Liturgy (Sunday); 8:30

Contemporary Service; 11:00



SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS

Eggs galore

Nicole Harrison, 3, looks for eggs on Camp Courtney's Bayview Beach during an Easter Egg Hunt April 1. Harrison was one of more than 300 children who looked for nearly 2,600 eggs full of candy and other surprises during the Culture Clubs monthly activity. The Culture Club is a group of approximately 150 American and Okinawan women who get together once a month to share a bit of each country's culture. Other Easter Egg events include: a Special Olympics Okinawa Easter Egg Hunt at Camp Foster April 7 and a 3d Medical Battalion Easter Egg Hunt at the Mountain View Officer's Club April 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information about these events contact Henry Mack, Special Olympics Okinawa at 637-1250 and 3d Med Bn Chaplain's Office at 623-7448.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Joint Women's Forum

The Okinawa Joint Women's Forum returns May 12. This extraordinary day of fun and learning is designed to enrich, empower and enlighten women in their roles as mothers, professionals and community members.

The forum is a series of workshops held throughout the day at Kadena High School. Participants may choose to learn about Japanese business etiquette, self-defense or important women's health issues. There will be more than 80 topics to choose from and workshop speakers include professionals from all walks of life who will teach everything from investing in the stock market to snorkeling on Okinawa.

"The forum is a truly wonderful and enlightening event," said Robyn Hall, a participant at last year's OJWE. "A lot of information is provided and a wide variety of classes were offered to fit every woman's interest."

Registration tables will be located at the Kadena USO April 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At this time, participants can see a complete list of workshops being offered and can submit their requests for preferences. Cost for the forum is \$10 for E-4 and below, and \$15 for all other ranks. The price includes lunch.

If you are unable to register on April 7, registration forms will be available at the Spouse's Gift Shops and published in upcoming editions of the Kadena Shogun, the Okinawa Marine and Stars and Stripes newspapers.

For more information, call Juliet Bucayu-Domingo at 932-6166.

Annual AWG golf tournament

The 9th Annual Army Women's Group Golf Tournament will be held at Kadena Air Base's Banyan Tree Golf Course on April 16. There are 144 slots to fill and the entry fees, which include green fees, golf cart rental, coffee and donuts and prizes, are as follows:

- SOFA personnel — \$50
- MLC/IHA/JSDF — ¥8,000 yen
- Other/non-SOFA — 12,500 yen

The AWG is a chartered private organization and all proceeds go to charities within the Okinawan civilian and U.S. military communities.

For more information, call Rain Pace at 956-4995 or Anthony Alessi at 633-1155.

Easter arts and crafts

Bring the kids to the Kadena Air Base USO April 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to make spring and Easter arts and crafts. All ages will enjoy making "chicks in a shell," "foam bunnies" and more.

The event will be held in the social hall inside the USO. Light snacks will be provided and the event is free and open to all ages.

For more information, call USO Marketing at 633-4510.

Air Force Club scholarships

For the fifth consecutive year, Air Force Club Membership is helping members and their families with the costs of higher education. The Kadena Officer's, Rocker NCO and Banyan Tree Clubs are participating in the Annual Club Membership Scholarship Program.

Current club members are eligible to apply. Three scholarships will be awarded for the 2001-2002 school year. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$3,000 and third prize is \$2,000.

Applicants must fill out an entry form from the Air Force Services' website at www-p.afsv.af.mil. Entries must be submitted by July 1.

Final scholarship awards will be announced by Oct. 1 and all bases and nominees will be advised of scholarship selection/non-selections.

For more information, please refer to the Air Force Services website. Scholarship information can be accessed under the "Clubs" heading.

To submit a brief ...

Send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or fax your request to 645-3803. The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only and they are run on a space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for submitting briefs is noon every Friday and the Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material to fit space.

You have to have a sense of humor



SGTMAJ STEPHEN H. MELLINGER
MARINE FORCES PACIFIC SERGEANT MAJOR

Every now and then something unpleasant happens to us. And though we find nothing amusing about it at the time, later on we look back and actually find humor in what happened. I'd like to share with you one of my personal sea stories.

Recently, my oldest daughter came up to me and said we needed to talk. Normally, when my children initiate conversation with me, it most likely involves money or them attempting to do an "end run" around their mom. You know. Mom already told them no to their request and now they come to me believing there's a slim chance to catch me off-guard and countermand my wife's marching orders.

Turns out that this particular conversation involved money. My daughter's green, Ford Escort needed servicing. I told her to drop it off at the dealership we normally use, tell me when it's ready for pick up and I'll accompany her there to pick it up and pay the bill.

Neither my daughter nor I bothered mentioning any of this to my wife because it was just routine vehicle maintenance. Nothing she would be concerned about.

A few days later, as planned, my daughter informed me her car was ready for pick up, so I took her to the dealership to pay the bill. Also that morning I grabbed the checkbook from my wife's purse (without telling her) to write a check to the dealership.

I went to the cashier's window to pay for services done to the Escort. A friendly lady cashier told me

the total costs and I began writing out the check. As I got to the "Pay to the order of," line on the check, this nice lady says, "You don't have to fill that in. I have a stamp." She stamped my check with the company stamp, but I was negligent to fill in that line on the carbon copy check that stays in the book for a record of the transaction.

I didn't know it at the time, but not filling in that line on the carbon check set me up for a whole lot of unpleasantness in days to come.

That afternoon I went home, returned the checkbook in my wife's purse (again without letting her know I took it) thinking life was great. Mission accomplished.

A few days later it was quite apparent that I said or did something that had my wife upset with me. I didn't know why or what was upsetting my wife, but I knew she had not been this riled at me in the 20 plus years of our marriage. I was getting the silent treatment from her like you wouldn't believe!

To give you an idea of how bad things were between us, I would politely ask, what's for dinner sweetie," and she would respond, "Whatever you fix is your dinner!" And of course, to my total bewilderment, I was made a guest in my own house. I was invited to sleep on the couch (a side note here, married guys should take an active part in choosing the couch for your home, so if/when the situation requires, you have a comfortable backup place to sleep).

My wife and I love each other very much and very rarely get upset with one another. Now, out of the clear blue sky, I'm two weeks in to my own version of "SURVIVAL!" Normally, if we have a disagreement about something, we give each other extra space for a while (a cooling off period so we don't say or do something we might later regret). After we cool off emotionally, we usually talk things out, apologize to each other, kiss and make up. But such was not the

case this time! I had become totally frantic trying to figure out what I did or didn't do to deserve such wrath from what used to be a sensitive, loving wife.

After two weeks of a living nightmare, I again tried what normally works for me when all else fails. I would tell her I was sorry (though I didn't know what for). However this time she ambushed my attempt at apologizing by asking me what it was that I asked forgiveness for (damn she's good at this psychological warfare). I had to come clean and tell her I didn't have a clue why she had been so upset with me (talk about pouring gas onto the flames).

Needless to say she was not impressed with my response. But give me credit, I hung in there like a true Marine, determined to bring closure to this horrid situation.

At that moment, she stomped over to her purse, ripped out the checkbook and launched it in my direction. She then asked, "Does this help to refresh your memory?" As much as I hated to tell her, I informed her it did not help. I told her I simply had no idea why she was so upset with me.

"Turn to check number 'xxxx'," she replied. "See if that jogs your memory." I nervously fumbled through the carbon copies. My mind was racing, trying to recall what a check had to do with the living hell I had been put through for two weeks.

I turned to the check that I made out to the dealership, for work done on our daughter's Ford Escort, and began to study my markings. Bingo! It all made sense as I focused on the "Memo" line (the line to give yourself a "clue" later on as to what you wrote the check for).

Looking at that check I realized that I had made several mistakes during this whole evolution. It was a mistake not informing my wife I was paying for our daughter's car repairs. It was a mistake not filling in the carbon copy's "Pay to the Order of" line. But the biggest of my mistakes was in filling out the "Memo" line with the words, ESCORT SERVICE!

What Would You Do?

The following examination of leadership issues is not intended to present right or wrong answers. The goal is to provide a forum to encourage leadership discussions of challenging issues. Chaplain responses are designed to provide moral and ethical guidance. Questions, comments or ideas for a future scenario may be submitted to: editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Morale courage

You're a corporal here on the Unit Deployment Program. You're good friends with Sgt Doe, and his wife, Sandy. During the holidays, Sgt Doe lets you stay at his place because he didn't want a Marine to spend the holidays alone in the barracks.

While on deployment, your company is granted liberty. The first thing Sgt Doe does is to take you out to a crowded nightclub. Before you know it, Sgt Doe is drunk and flirting with a waitress.

A couple of Marines from your platoon walk into the club and sit at the table with you, Sgt Doe and the waitress. Sgt Doe bids you a good night and leaves the club, holding the waitress' hand.

The next day, Sgt Doe shows up looking hung over and tired. "Hey, corporal. I would really appreciate it if things didn't get back to Sandy," Sgt Doe mumbles as he rubs his eyes. What do you do?

What the Marines said

Lance Cpl with 3d MarDiv: "What happens on deployment, stays on deployment."

Corporal with 1st MAW: "I don't want to get involved with someone's personal life, so I wouldn't say anything to his wife."

Corporal with MCB: "I wouldn't say anything with him, but I wouldn't go out with him anymore because if he would do something wrong behind his wife's back then I couldn't trust him."

What the Chaplain said

There is a saying that character is who you are when you think no one is looking. There is a great deal of truth to this statement. People who live by the core values of courage, honor and commitment do so because it is the right thing to do, not because someone is watching them. They are men and women of character. People of character make good Marines.

If Marines/Sailors give up principles because they are away from authorities, away from their spouses while on deployment, or in any type of circumstance wherein they believe "no one will ever know," they are portraying their true self. Mistakes may be made and people can be truly sorry for their mistake. Admitting mistakes requires honor.

I think the corporal from MCB is correct in recognizing that the sergeant's behavior has damaged their friendship and the level of trust that should exist between friends. But, I would not be silent with the sergeant. I would tell him that our friendship has been hurt and the level of trust between us has been reduced. I would also let him know that good friends don't put each other in situations where lying has to be expected or encouraged.

It is not my position to pass information on to the spouse, but it is my prerogative to tell someone I considered a friend (the sergeant) that we need to rethink our friendship and the level of our future involvement.

Navy Capt Thomas Dansak, Chaplain, 1st MAW



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Bull riders up for sale

CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CHIBANA, Okinawa — Members of the Okinawa Bull Riding Association sold themselves to bunch of “yahooing” cowgirls here during a Cowboy Auction. They did it to prove that they are serious about the opportunity to get tossed on their backsides.

The auction helped the organization raise money to keep their rodeo passion alive and kicking on Okinawa.

Whether the cowboys came to the stage in a cowboy tuxedo, like Matt “Sally” Grenz or were flashing their tattoos, like Jaime Baker, each did their part to earn money for OBRA.

“We’re here for fun and to earn a little money for OBRA,” said Baker, whose smile and tattoo rated the highest dollar amount for the organization.

Auctioneer and OBRA president, Randy “Pepper” Reese, used every tactic in his bag of tricks to get top dollar for the cowboys. He even tempted a few to pay for themselves.

“This is what rodeo and bull riding is about,” said Jean Shibahara, a cowboy who journeyed from mainland Japan to participate in the two-day celebration. “The fun, the friendship and riding the bulls.”

The fundraiser, held at local cowboy hangout Western World following the St. Patty’s Day Round-Up, was considered a success by organizers. About \$200 was raised during the auction. The money goes back into OBRA, helping the organization pay for equipment and livestock.



Three of the four bulls used during the St. Patty’s Day Round-Up were thrown into the air. OBRA rents some of its livestock from Okinawa.

Ride’m Cowboys

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL KIMBERLY S. DOWELL
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CHIBANA, Okinawa — Shamrocks and leprechauns were replaced by chaps and spurs as members and supporters of the Okinawa Bull Riding Association celebrated St. Patrick’s Day cowboy-style here March 17 and 18.

Dubbed the St. Patty’s Day Round-up, the two-day event brought cowboys, cowpokes and rodeo fans from Okinawa and as far away as Tokyo to the OBRA arena.

The late arrival of two bulls and rainy weather delayed the start time of the events, but did not dampen the spirits of the competitors or organizers.

“This is fun no matter what,” said Jean Shibahara, bull rider. “It’s not about the money or how fancy the rodeo is, it’s just about having the chance to ride bulls.”

Shibahara spent more than \$400 to fly from mainland Japan to Okinawa for the competition. He walked away with a bloody ear, bruised backside and a huge smile on his face.

Shibahara’s devotion to rodeo exemplifies the driving spirit behind OBRA.

Born in 1998 as the Okinawa Bull Riding Club, the organization used its members’ love of rodeo to bring the sport to Okinawa.

According to the OBRA website, the livestock, facilities and equipment needed for rodeo competition were in short supply. The founding members of the organization opened their wallets and put on handyman hats to organize the first bull riding event in Japan.

OBRA has continued to pursue its mission of “promoting, improving and increasing awareness” of bull riding and rodeo throughout Japan.

In the arena of improvements, the organization now owns two bulls, Jailbreak and Shooter’s Run. The OBRA has even started competitions for children called “Little Britches.” And for safety, they maintain a volunteer medical team.

Owning two of its own bulls saves OBRA on livestock rental fees by reducing the number of bulls they have to rent from Okinawan livestock contractors.

“We actually saved Jailbreak from the hamburger factory,” said John Mathews, OBRA Vice President.



Sgt. Jason Parker, Site Supervisor, G-6, Marine Corps Base, helps a bull rider tie onto the bull. The rider will need to secure himself as best possible or he’ll be thrown from the bull too early.

“He had kind of an unfortunate incident with his former owner.”

The OBRA Little Britches competition allows younger cowboys, children 12 and under, to ride a smaller version of the big bulls, a 400-pound calf. The competition rewards the youngster who hangs on longest with a buckle, just like the adult competition.

Neither the calf nor the large bulls want a man or child on its back. There may even be a glint of joy in the animals’ dark eyes when the cowboy or cowpoke hits the dirt. As all bull rides can potentially end in a rough landing, safety is a concern for both rider and animal.

“Our safety precautions have continued to be a high priority,” said John Mathews, OBRA Vice President. “The cowboys wear a vest similar to a flak jacket when they ride. We’ve got two clowns in the ring to ensure the riders come off the bull safely and we have four medically-trained volunteers serving as our medical team.”

While improving safety for the competitors, OBRA also works to maintain the safety and well-being of the livestock. An incident during a recent Little

Britches competition led to a leg injury for the calf. Since then, the organization has tasked its wranglers and rodeo clowns with warming-up the calf before putting a rider on its back.

One area OBRA is currently focusing on improving is sponsorship. Currently, the organization survives on internal funding and an occasional fundraiser.

“We are in desperate need of sponsors,” Mathews said. “All of the money we get through entrance fees, membership dues and our fundraisers goes back into OBRA. Everything from the bulls to the barbecue costs money.”

Prizes for riders like Billy Morris also cost money. He finished the St. Patty’s Day Round-up with a shiny new buckle, about \$340 and 10 overall competition points added to his OBRA finals qualifier score.

When the season wraps up, the top five competing OBRA members represent the organization in the Japan Finals Rodeo.

OBRA continues to add events and seek new members. For information about membership and upcoming events, check out the organization’s official website at www.rodeo.jp.



Up stand hitched to fence posts as they wait to toss cowboys an livestock contractors.



SSgt John W. Mathews takes a break from entertaining the crowds and protecting the cowboys. His bright pink shirt and painted face have become one of the highlights of OBRA events.

Drill Instructor clowns around

Story and photos by Cpl Kimberly S. Dowell

CHIBANA, Okinawa – Marine Corps drill instructors aren't known for clowning around much. But for former drill instructor SSgt John W. Mathews, clowning around while being chased by an angry 1,000-pound bull is one of his hobbies.

The 32-year-old company gunnery sergeant for Support Company, 3d Transportation Support Battalion spends his free time entertaining rodeo fans as a clown for the Okinawa Bull Riding Association.

"I got into clowning when I got to Okinawa in 1999," SSgt Mathews said. "Some friends told me about a rodeo group and through some talking and helping out, here I am."

SSgt Mathews started out pulling gates and helping the OBRA wranglers with the bulls, but the easy-going Texan's first exposure to rodeo came as a child.

As a twelve-year-old in Garrison, Texas, SSgt Mathews took part in local rodeo events including

between riders. "Cowboy protection is our primary concern, but we also work to entertain the crowd and the kids."

SSgt Mathews works with fellow rodeo clown, Sgt Carson Zumalt, to keep OBRA events exciting and safe. Half of the cowboys' score is derived from the action of the bull. A lazy, slow moving bull equals a bad ride regardless of how hard the cowboy works, according to SSgt Mathews.

"While you don't really need to, I've kind of gotten to know our bulls," SSgt Mathews said. "Jailbreak is definitely a crowd pleaser. The bigger the crowd, the more active he is for the cowboys. Shooter's Run has a lot of spunk and some good kick."

The energy level of the crowd and the bulls is matched and bolstered by the clowns.

When the announcer calls his name, SSgt Mathews spins over the top fence rail, a blur of swirling bandanas, fluorescent colors and spangled suspenders. He dances to the music blaring from a



Jean Shibahara hangs on for the long haul while rodeo clown, Carson Zumalt stands ready to make the end of the ride safe and smooth.

their father bounces around in the sawdust. But clowning isn't always fun and games. As soon as a bull is in the chutes, SSgt Mathews shoos his children back a safe distance from the arena fence.

"The bulls we use have fighting backgrounds and can be extremely aggressive," said Sgt Randy "Pepper" Reese, OBRA President. "They like to charge the fence and stick their heads (and horns) between the rails."

SSgt Mathews has had his share of close calls with the bulls' aggressive sides, calls so close he was "wiping bull snot" off the back of his legs.

"Probably one of scariest moments out here was when a cowboy came off Jailbreak during practice," SSgt Mathews said. "That big bull turned on a dime and came straight at me. I was physically wiping bull snot off the back of my legs once I cleared the fence and got out of the arena."

When SSgt Mathews looks at life after the Marine Corps, he sees a ranch in Wyoming somewhere. Time spent around rodeo people, OBRA and Okinawan livestock contractors has taught him a few tricks of the trade and cemented the Wyoming dream for him and his family.

"My wife and I fully plan on running a stock farm," he said. "Thing is, it will have to be two-sided. I want to do the bulls. My wife wants horses."

For now, SSgt Mathews concentrates on his life in Okinawa, taking care of his Marines and spending quality, happy time with his family.

He surveys the arena, perched on the top fence rail. Around him country music blares and people share smiles and barbecue. His children play in the grass. Long-legged cowboys tug at their chaps and rewind ropes.

"This is what good rodeo is all about," he said. "Bulls and riders with a lot of heart, a lot of fight. A good crowd, good food... just good people together having a good time."





F/A-18 Hornet from VMFA (AW)-533, UDP to MAG-12, 1st MAW, before take off.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Hornets swarm Okinawa

LCPL KATHY J. ARNDT
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

KADENA AIR BASE — Approximately 200 Marines from Beaufort, S.C., landed here recently to train and qualify as the first Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, F/A-18 Hornet Squadron.

The Hawks of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 are deployed to Japan for six months on the Unit Deployment Program with Marine Air Group-12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

During the next six months, the Hawks will deploy throughout the Western Pacific in support of the 31st MEU.

"We are here to support the MEU Commander," said 1stLt Micheal D. Russ, Officer in Charge, Flight Equipment and Seat Shop, VMFA(AW)-533, MAG-12, 1st MAW.

VMFA(AW)-533 provides the MEU with many capabilities, to include Airborne Reconnaissance and Surveillance, Tactical Air Control Airborne, Forward Air Control Airborne, Close Air Support, Escort, and Airborne Defense of the Amphibious Task Force.

Flying well above the objective area using electronic and visual sensors, the Hawks bring global situational awareness to the MEU by providing real-time communication of enemy and friendly positions during the exercises. They also provide detailed aerial photographs to support real-time situation reports.

Additionally, VMFA(AW)-533 provides instant and decisive fire power not seen before by the MEU.

After the Hawks finish their training in Okinawa, they will link with the 31st MEU in Australia.

As a MEU(SOC) certified F/A-18 Hornet squadron, the Hawks have revolutionized MEU fixed wing integration. "We will show the MEU the tremendous capabilities of the F/A-18D," said LtCol Mantford C. Hawkins, Commanding Officer, VMFA(AW)-533. "These additional capabilities will expand the MEU's capabilities and create a super MEU."

Marines at VMFA(AW)-533 will head back to South Carolina with more experience and a SOC certification that no other F/A-18 squadron has throughout the Marine Corps.



Cpl Julie L. Henderson, Ordnance Specialist, VFMA (AW)-533, MAG-12, 1st MAW, signals to her fellow Marines before an F/A-18 takes off.



Cpl Eric Vergara, Airframe Mechanic, VMFA (AW)-533, UDP to MAG-12, 1st MAW, walks with a fellow Marine to a F/A-18 Hornet with a jet servicing unit.



Three F/A-18 Hornets fly in formation over the waters of the Pacific.

Recruiter takes charge

Marine keeps economics class calm during school shooting

SGT STEVEN WILLIAMS
MCRD SAN DIEGO

RECRUITING STATION SAN DIEGO, Calif. — A San Diego recruiter took control of an economics class of 38 students as gunshots 200 feet away interrupted his career talk at Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, Calif., March 22.

SSgt Theodore Thomas ordered the students to get on the floor as he closed the blinds and kept the intense situation as calm as possible.

"I told everyone to stay between the aisles and not go near the windows," SSgt Thomas said. "I did that so if the shooter came by, he wouldn't be tempted to shoot. The less the shooter sees, the less apt they are to shoot."

Thomas then gave his cell phone to the class, so they could pass it around and tell their parents they were safe. He ordered PFC Allan Cohen, his recruiter's assistant and 2000 graduate of the school, and Bill Affeldt, who was recruited by Thomas and is preparing to go to recruit training after graduation, to keep the students calm while he went outside to get other students into classrooms.

"He gave me an important role," PFC Cohen said. "He put the safety of those students in my hands. If I didn't follow those orders, who knows what could've happened."

"If SSgt Thomas had not been there, we would've all run outside, trying to figure out what was going on," said Affeldt. "He basically kept everyone in line. Because he is a Marine, and everyone has more respect for him, when he says something, they do it."

"After I got everyone into the classrooms, I went to the end of the building," SSgt Thomas said, who was part of an operation in Saudi Arabia in 1991 that captured 1,500 Iraqi prisoners of war. "For some reason, being infantry, my inclination was to go toward the bullets and get (him). Once I realized I didn't have a weapon and a flak jacket, I went back to the class."



SSgt Theodore Thomas helped to keep a class of 38 students safe during the shooting at Granite Hills High School on March 22.

SSgt Thomas returned to an overload of questions about what was happening. He told the students that they had an important role to play, and that was to remain calm and focused.

"I told them chaos will overrun an environment if you let it," he recalled. "You have to control chaos and not let it take over. If you get as crazy as chaos, chaos will win every time."

He turned on the classroom television to let the students see what details were available on the situation. He remained with the students until they were all evacuated to a nearby park to reunite with their parents. SSgt Thomas, PFC Cohen and his six poolees in the school were unharmed. Unfortunately, seven other people were injured in the shooting, including the 18-year-old shooter, who was shot in the jaw and buttocks in a shoot-out with police.

This came just two-and-a-half weeks after two people were killed and 13 were wounded in a shoot-

ing at Santana High School, a few miles north.

The recruiters spend several hours a week at schools like these throughout every school year. Thomas said these incidents will not deter him from continuing with business as usual.

"It will not stop me from doing my job," SSgt Thomas said. "If I could be at every school, all day, keeping them safe, I would. But that is impossible. So, I will continue to keep up my mission."

He plans to attend community services held for the shooting to provide support and advice to the students involved. He said this firsthand experience has allowed him to "truly understand why students are afraid to go to school."

SSgt Thomas has a little less than two years left on the streets before he leaves recruiting. He said he's going to pass on as much guidance and experience to his poolees as he can, so they can stay prepared for any situation that may arise.

Marine poolee helps friends to safety in school shooting

SGT STEVEN WILLIAMS
MCRD SAN DIEGO

RECRUITING STATION SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Recruiting Station San Diego poolee Michael Ashworth ran into the line of fire March 5 to help a wounded friend escape terror during the Santana High School shooting in Santee, Calif., which killed two students and wounded 13 others.

Before the shooting, Ashworth and his friends were hanging out next to the same bathroom they've met at between classes all school year. Suddenly, Ashworth heard a popping noise in the bathroom and thought it was a fellow student playing a prank. But when 15-year-old freshman Charles Andrew Williams emerged and started firing a .22 caliber pistol into a crowd of students, Ashworth knew it wasn't a joke.

"I couldn't believe it was happening," the 17-year-old poolee said. "It sounded like a cap gun and he was firing right at us. I could see the smoke coming from the gun."

For a few seconds, Ashworth and his friends stared in disbelief. The

group finally fled for cover after one of them was struck by a bullet.

"We took off running, but I looked back and saw my friend laying on the ground," Ashworth said.

With rounds still whizzing in their direction, Ashworth and two others raced back to help their friend. When they reached him, the young gunman ran back into the restroom to reload his weapon. This gave the boys just enough time to get their injured classmate to his feet. They had started to flee the area when one of Ashworth's rescue partners took a bullet in the leg as the shooter reappeared from the bathroom fully reloaded.

Ashworth quickly grabbed his cell phone and dialed 911.

"I told them there was a shooting at the school and I described the shooter," he said, recalling the phone call.

His next phone call was to his mom. "I said 'Yeah, there's been a shooting at Santana'," Ashworth said, describing his tone as calm, relaxed, and still in disbelief of what was happening.

While other parents and students were scattered in nearby parking lots

for hours trying to reunite, Ashworth was able to put his mother's mind at ease with the same cell phone she used to consider just another expensive toy. "I will never complain about the cell phone bill again," Suzy Ashworth said.

It wasn't until a church service that evening at Pathways Community Church in Santee that the weight of the event finally dropped on Ashworth; two students, one he had known since elementary school, and the other, just 14 years old, were dead.

"We were talking about what happened," he said. "That's when we all broke down and cried."

March 7, Ashworth returned to school with the rest of his classmates, including his two injured friends, following a day of memorials and mourning. Still, the sorrow is far from over.

"I was hugging people I didn't even know or hadn't seen for years," he said. "I will approach life a lot differently now. I will live every day to its fullest."

Ashworth will start basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Nov. 27. His dad, Kevin, a former Marine sergeant, said he feels his son

has already proven he has what it takes to be a Marine.

"In my eyes," he wrote on an internet message board, "he is already a member in good standing of 'The Few, The Proud.' I salute you, Michael."



Michael Ashworth (right), a Marine poolee and Santana High School student, greets his friends several days after the March 5 shooting at the high school.

Marines and Sailors help elderly Okinawans relocate

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CPL CHAD SWAIM
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT



LCpl Fredrick James, Mechanic, Motor Transportation Maintenance, 3d MRB, 3d FSSG loads equipment onto the back of a truck provided by H&S Bn March 18 to help move the elderly residents of Kasei-En in Itoman City to their new home.

ITOMAN CITY — More than 80 Marines and Sailors from 3d Force Service Support Group volunteered to help elderly Okinawans by moving furniture and equipment from their nursing home here March 18.

Kasei-En, the oldest nursing home on Okinawa, is now empty. Its residents are now adjusting to their new 160-room nursing home thanks to Sailors and Marines who volunteered their time to help residents move.

"We had a lot more volunteers than we were able to bring," said Col David J. Biow, Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3d FSSG. "It's been my impression that Marines are looking for opportunities to go out and help in the local community. Every time I ask anybody to do anything, we have people beating down the doors to participate."

The nursing home was established May 15, 1972 and was the largest and oldest nursing home in Okinawa. Over the years it has fallen into disrepair, and the costs to rebuild would have been more than the new building.

The new facility is less than two kilometers away from the old one and was completed after 18 months of construction. It boasts modern technology like automatic sliding doors and a nurse call button at every bed to help the residents live more comfortable lives, according to Navy LTJG Philip Bagrow, Chaplain, H&S Bn, 3d FSSG.

Nursing home officials have already asked the chaplain to bring more groups to the home to continue fostering a relationship with the Marines.

"This is an indication of the good relationship that we have established with the nursing home," LTJG Bagrow said. "They have already asked us to come at Christmas time, and any other time to continue this friendship and foster the neighborliness between the Okinawan people and the American service members."

The Marines and Sailors spent the day moving hospital beds, tables, chairs and medical equipment into the new facility.

"I've done a lot of projects of this size, but I've never seen such teamwork as I have today with our Marines and Sailors," LTJG Bagrow said. "I appreciate that, and I think we need to be proud of the fact that their willingness to work never stopped."

Even though the project was large, the volunteers were happy to help.

"It makes you feel good to do something for people who may be less fortunate or need your help in anyway," said GySgt Robert Harden, Operations Chief, Preservation Packaging and Packing, Material Readiness Company, 3d Material Readiness Battalion. "You would want that kind of help if you were in the same situation."

However, the Marines and Sailors weren't on their own. Family members of the home's residents also pitched in and helped out with the move.

"I think that it's important to point out that we were working among family members," LTJG Bagrow said. "I saw teenagers and kids that were four and five years old. Not only were we helping the nursing home, but it looked like we were working side by side with the residents' extended family."

The relatives of the nursing home residents were happy to have help from the volunteers.

"Their efforts here today are very appreciated," said Kiku Asato, sister of a nursing home resident.

At the end of the day, the residents were in their new home and the volunteers left with a sense of satisfaction.

"Every culture, every nation has older people that are dependant on others for their medicine and a place to live," LTJG Bagrow said. "I think that the volunteers did a good deed and if [friendships] improve as a result, well that's good too. I think every Marine and Sailor wants to do the right thing and that's a large part of what's behind this today."

Cpl Joshua Simon, NCOIC, Exercise Readiness and PFC Stephanie Cadellien, Separation and Retirement Clerk, Marine Corps Personnel Administration Center, remove tables from Kasei-En in Itoman City March 18. The tables will be reused in the new facility that is less than two kilometers away.



GySgt Robert Harden, Operations Chief, Preservation Packaging and Packing, 3d MRB, 3d FSSG, volunteered to help the residents of Kasei-En move March 18. Here he is removing equipment from one of the classrooms in the old facility.



SSgt Lawrence Murdock, Environmental Chief, H&S Bn, 3d MarDiv, knocked down 1,507 pins to win the Gold Medal for the singles competition in the 2001 Armed Forces Bowling Championship in Virginia Beach, Va., Feb. 28 to March 3.

Marine bowls for gold

LCPL KEITH R. MEIKLE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY- The sound of ten pins getting pummeled by a bowling ball is an explosion which one combat engineer loves to hear.

SSgt Lawrence Murdock knocked down 1,507 pins to win a gold medal for the singles competition in the 2001 Armed Forces Bowling Championship in Virginia Beach, Va., Feb. 28- March 3.

SSgt Murdock, who currently serves as Environmental Chief, Headquarters Battalion, 3d Marine Division, finished the tournament with a 227 average, 22 over his regular average of 205.

"I am to the point in my bowling career that it isn't about fun because it's no fun to lose," SSgt Murdock said. "I'm a competitor, I play to win."

Although he didn't finish number one in the overall tournament, he was satisfied with his performance.

"It was a great feeling being able to participate in the tournament," SSgt Murdock said.

Conquering this goal of making it to the tournament was one thing that SSgt Murdock didn't think he would get to do.

"Two years ago the Marine Corps dropped the All-Marine Bowling team because of lack of funds," SSgt Murdock said. "I didn't think I would have a chance to bowl in the Armed Forces tournament again."

After several tries throughout his bowling career, he finally made the 2001 Armed Forces tournament just in time before his retirement in June.

Winning the gold medal comes 22 years after the beginning of his bowling career at Century Bowl in Lynwood,

Calif., where his dad introduced the game to him.

"When I was younger, I kept score for my dad during his leagues," SSgt Murdock said. "One day, when I was a sophomore, my dad said, 'Come here son, let me teach you something.'"

His dad gave him the ball and taught him the basics of bowling. SSgt Murdock persisted in the sport with his dad's support.

"My dad played a big part of my bowling," SSgt Murdock said. "He got me started and gave me dedication to practice and become successful."

Home is not the only place that helped SSgt Murdock with the dedication and motivation to be a champion.

"After I left home, the Marine Corps instilled in me the motivation and drive to improve and be more competitive," SSgt Murdock said.

As SSgt Murdock gets ready to retire he is preparing a career for bowling, but not the Professional Bowling Association.

"Most people join the pros for the prestige and professional status," SSgt Murdock said. "I feel there is more money in the amateur tournaments than in the pro tour, and that's what it is about to me."

An average of 200 is required on the pro tour, so SSgt Murdock has the talent to be a pro, but will play as an amateur.

"I have the capability to play at a professional level, but playing at amateur tournaments only increases the chance of my success," SSgt Murdock said.

SSgt Murdock plans to continue his bowling career when he retires in Las Vegas and hopes to win more medals and one day retire from a successful bowling career.

Bikers race to improve life

PFC. DAMIAN MCGEE
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP COURTNEY- Seventy athletes gathered here for the St. Patrick's Day Bike Race March 17 to do more than just exercise. They raced to improve the living conditions of some who are unable to do it for themselves.

The bike race was a charitable event to raise money for new tables and chairs for a local home for mentally challenged residents in nearby Ishikawa. The home is one of the many on Okinawa that the Marines have taken their time to assist. Members of the Camp Courtney Chapel felt the home was desperately in need of new furniture.

The home is not supported by the Okinawan government or any private sector organization. It relies on charitable donations, according to Tomomi Aguni, the president of the home who also presented medals after the race.

"The parents of the residents organized this home for their children," Aguni said. "But, we wouldn't have anything if it wasn't for Marines and charities like these."

For many who participated in the race, it was the very idea of charity that encouraged them to participate.

"I felt this was a great chance to get back on my bike, especially since it was for charity," said Jayme Kohler, who won the beginners' division. "We heard about the race a couple of weeks ago and when we found out it was for charity, we were determined to get involved."

In addition to knowing he was doing something good for charity, the informality of the race was also a strong draw, according to Kohler.

"There was no pressure to win this race," Kohler said. "This was simply a way to get out and have fun while helping others and making new friends."

The races also provided a chance for families to come out together. Many parents brought their kids to compete in the children's division, but one rider's children participated a little differently.

Lisa Scharnhorst, who placed third in the women's beginner division, attached seats to the back of her bike and rode her children around the entire race.

"I want to teach them that exercise is a good thing," Scharnhorst said. "The chapel did a great job in putting on a nice event and providing a nice family atmosphere."

The race raised \$850 for the home.



PFC DAMIAN MCGEE

With the roads somewhat slick, the riders had to ensure that every part of their bicycle was functioning properly and safely. Joe Mazzola, center, checks his breaks and prepares for the starting whistle.



These Phalaenopsis or Moss Orchids are on display throughout Bios on the Hill and are also available for purchase in the park's gift shop. The park, which opened in 1998, displays orchids which were originally grown for competition.



Bios on the Hill has a variety of orchid displays throughout the park, many of which include living dragons as plants are groomed to take the shape of these legendary creatures.



Ken Ikahara, Boat Captain, Bios on the Hill, points out and describes orchids, other plants and small animals on the shore as he pilots the boat through the 25-minute tour.

Directions to the park

To get to Bios on the Hill, take the Okinawa Expressway to Exit 5.

After leaving the expressway, turn left and head north on Route 329 for approximately four kilometers. Then take a left on to Route 6 and follow the signs for the park.



Beauty upon the hill

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT ROBERT J. ANGUS
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ISHIKAWA — Tucked away on a hilltop, just north of Camp Courtney, is a little orchid park described by a judge of the International Orchid Competition as containing some of the most beautiful orchids in the world.

"Bios on the Hill is truly beautiful," said Lute Rollue, German Judge for the International Orchid Competition which took place recently at the Tropical Dream Center on Motobu Peninsula. "This is the second time I've been to Okinawa for this competition, and I had to visit this beautiful park again."

Bios on the Hill, which has been open less than three years, strives to create a paradise where there is symbiosis between humans and nature, according to Yukitaka Yamaguchi, General Manager, Bios on the Hill.

"We began growing orchids in our greenhouses for competition," Yamaguchi said. "Then, a couple years ago, we decided to set up the park to share them with Okinawa."

"We chose the name Bios because it means life in Greek," Yamaguchi said. "Since then, we've been protecting and reconstructing a fragile ecosystem because we want everybody to see the radiance of nature."

The reconstructed ecosystem contains hundreds of species of orchids, and more than 50 species of butterflies have been seen on the walking trails, according to Yamaguchi.

In addition to walking trails, the park offers a 25-minute boat tour through the Ufutachigumui jungle. Boats leave every 30 minutes, and the captain explains the orchids, other plants and small animals around the pond.

"The way the orchids are displayed along the boat tour is simply gorgeous," Rollue said. "The Vanda and Phalaenopsis orchids along the water's edge are perfect examples of what grows throughout Southeast Asia."

In case visitors miss a particular orchid as they explore the park, Bios Hall has exhibits including photos of orchids and other plants and specimens of insects.

"You may learn something new about nature from the Bios Hall exhibits," Yamaguchi said. "Not only do we hope you learn from your visit, we hope you will remember the radiance of these moments of nature which we never want to lose."

Admission to the park is ¥630 for adults and ¥300 for children 12 and under. Additional charges for the boat tours are ¥450 for adults and ¥300 for children under 12. A joint admission and boat tour ticket is available upon entry for ¥1000 for adults and ¥560 for children under 12.

For more information on tickets or tours to Bios on the Hill contact Marine Corps Community Services, International Tickets and Tours at 645-3985/3502.



AUTOMOBILES/MOTORCYCLES

1987 Mazda Bongo — JCI Aug 01, \$950 OBO. 637-2598.
 1993 Honda Civic — JCI Oct 02, \$1,600 OBO. 623-4047.
 1989 Toyota Carina — JCI Oct 02, \$1,500 OBO. 637-3451.
 1989 Toyota Carina — JCI Jul 02, \$1,800 OBO. 636-4015.
 1991 Toyota Vista — JCI Aug 02, \$2,250 OBO. Doug, 646-4176.
 1990 Honda Integra — JCI Mar 03, \$2,000 OBO. 633-2064.
 1991 Honda Civic — JCI Mar 02, \$1,600 OBO. 646-2252.
 1991 Toyota Corona — JCI May 02, \$2,500 OBO. 637-2597.
 1990 Toyota Cresta — JCI Jul 01, \$1,500 OBO. 622-8198.
 1989 Toyota MR2 — JCI 2003, \$1,500. Turner, 622-9244.
 1991 Isuzu Gemini — JCI Mar 03, \$2,500 OBO. 645-3564.
 1989 Toyota Grande Mark II — JCI Mar 02, \$900. 623-5601.
 1991 Nissan Skyline — JCI Dec 02, \$3,400. 645-9028.
 1991 Toyota Corona — JCI May 02, \$2,500 OBO. 637-2597.
 1993 Ford Van — JCI Jul 02, \$3,500. 1989 Honda Accord — \$1,700. 622-5178.
 1989 Nissan Skyline — JCI Mar 03, \$2,200. 1991 Nissan Bluebird — JCI Feb 03, \$2,000. 622-6384 or 622-9244.
 1993 Toyota Corolla — JCI Dec 01, \$2,200. Shawn, 645-3180.
 1990 Honda Integra — JCI Jun 01, \$700 OBO. Wavery, 646-4355.
 1990 Toyota Cresta — JCI Jan 01, \$1,250 OBO. 090-9407-2921.
 1991 Toyota Vista — JCI Aug 02, \$2,200 OBO. Doug, 646-4176.
 1989 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 02, \$3,000. 622-8509.
 1989 Toyota Carina — JCI Oct 02, \$1,500 OBO. Moses, 637-3451.
 1990 Honda Civic — JCI Sep 01, \$1,600 OBO. 637-2482.
 1994 Nissan Pulsar — JCI Feb 03, \$2,500. 645-1736 or 646-6267.
 1988 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Aug 02, \$3,500. 637-3228.

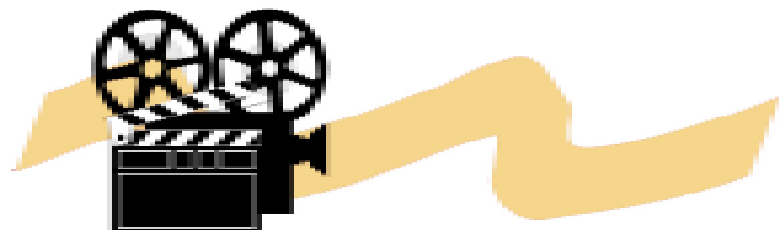


MISCELLANEOUS

Boots — Python skin cowboy boots size 9 1/2, \$100. 936-5994.
Misc. — Dinnerware set, 44 piece set, \$35; mauve upholstered chair, \$125. Jennifer, 622-8412.
Misc. — Women's rollerblades, size 8 1/2, \$65. 637-6863.
Misc. — Large Igloo dog house, \$40; large plastic outside storage shed, \$45. 890-4822 after 7 p.m.
Misc. — Oak entertainment center, \$30. Wavery, 646-4355.
Misc. — Graco pack-n-play, \$60; crib, \$50; 2 wooden rocking horses, \$55 each; electronic keyboard, \$60; headboard and footboard queen size, \$200; English 294 creative writing book, \$25; 13" computer monitor, \$100. 646-4576.
Misc. — 100 feet fence, 5 feet high, \$700. 646-4136.
Misc. — 80 foot fence with gate, \$100 OBO; cherry colored entertainment center, \$100 OBO. 646-6869.
Chip — Playstation Mod-chip, \$25. John, 637-3718.
Rabbit — Calico rabbit, \$30; with cage, \$90. 637-6082.
Misc. — 5 lug, 16" Nissan Skyline wheel set, \$150. 646-3290.
Misc. — Small country style dinner table w/three chairs, \$30; small wood side table, \$20. 645-2743.
Misc. — Jenny Lind brown crib and changing table, \$100 OBO; blue parakeet, FTGH. Melissa, 622-8649 or 634-0114.
Misc. — Vertical blinds, \$60; Barbie house, \$70. 622-9460.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week. The deadline for ads is noon, Fridays, space permitting. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to editor@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

Coming to a theater near you ...



Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice. **Call theaters in advance to confirm showtimes.** Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Hansen (623-4564)

Fri The Mexican (R); 6:00, 9:00
Sat The Mexican (R); 6:00, 9:00
Sun 15 Minutes (R); 2:00, 5:30
Mon 15 Minutes (R); 7:00
Tue The Pledge (PG13); 7:00
Wed Sugar and Spice (PG13); 7:00
Thu Cast Away (PG13); 7:00



Check Hansen Theater for show times.



Check Schwab, Butler, Kinser, Courtney and Keystone Theaters for show times.

Schwab (625-2333)

Fri Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00
Sat Thirteen Days (PG13); 6:00
Sat Double Take (PG13); 9:00
Sun Thirteen Days (PG13); 3:00
Sun Double Take (PG13); 6:00
Mon Enemy at the Gates (R); 7:00
Tue Enemy at the Gates (R); 7:00
Wed Closed
Thu The Pledge (PG13); 7:00

Keystone (634-1869)

Fri Double Take (PG13); 6:30
Fri 3,000 Miles to Graceland (R); 9:30
Sat Cast Away (PG13); 1:00
Sat Enemy at the Gates (R); 5:30, 9:00
Sun Cast Away (PG13); 2:00
Sun Enemy at the Gates (R); 5:30, 9:00
Mon Sugar and Spice (PG13); 7:00
Tue Sugar and Spice (PG13); 7:00
Wed Cast Away (PG13); 7:00
Thu Emperor's New Groove (G); 7:00



Check Keystone, Kinser, Hansen and Butler Theaters for show times.

Butler (645-3465)

Fri Double Take (PG13); 7:00, 10:00
Sat Sugar and Spice (PG13); 1:00, 4:00
Sat Double Take (PG13); 7:00, 10:00
Sun Sugar and Spice (PG13); 1:00, 4:00
Sun Cast Away (PG13); 7:00
Mon Cast Away (PG13); 7:00
Tue Cast Away (PG13); 7:00
Wed The Pledge (R); 7:00
Thu Enemy at the Gates (R); 7:00

Kinser (637-2177)

Fri Double Take (PG13); 7:00
Sat Sugar and Spice (PG13); 3:00
Sat Cast Away (PG13); 7:00, 11:30
Sun The Pledge (PG13); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Sugar and Spice (PG13); 7:00
Wed Enemy at the Gates (R); 7:00
Thu The Pledge (PG13); 7:00

Courtney (622-9616)

Fri Enemy at the Gates (R); 7:00
Sat Double Take (PG13); 7:00
Sun Thirteen Days (PG13); 7:00
Mon Closed
Tue Closed
Wed Emperor's New Groove (G); 1:00
Wed Unbreakable (PG13); 7:00
Thu Closed

Futenma (636-3890)

Fri All the Pretty Horses (PG13); 7:30
Sat Unbreakable (PG13); 6:00
Sun Double Take (PG13); 6:00
Mon Unbreakable (PG13); 7:30
Tue Closed
Wed Exit Wounds (R); 7:30
Thu Closed